

# (12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 271 231 (13) A

(43) Date of Printing by UK Office 06.04.1994

(21) Application No 9322753.6

(22) Date of Filing 08.04.1992

(30) Priority Data

(31) 709459

(32) 03.06.1991

(33) US

(86) International Application Data  
PCT/US92/02774 En 08.04.1992

(87) International Publication Data  
WO92/22143 En 10.12.1992

(51) INT CL<sup>5</sup>  
H03G 3/20, H04B 1/04

(52) UK CL (Edition M)  
H3G GPP G10S G15  
U1S S2204

(56) Documents Cited by ISA  
EP 0388894 A JP 003280727 A US 4630117 A  
US 4317083 A

(58) Field of Search by ISA  
U.S. : 455/127, 102, 115, 118, 67.1

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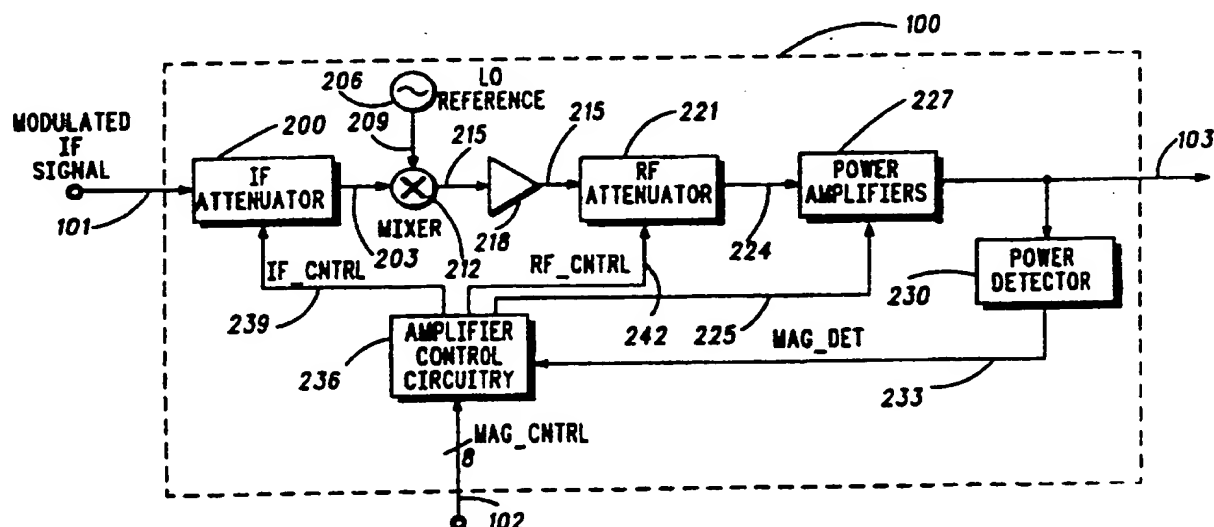
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## (54) Power control curcuiy for achieving wide dynamic range in a transmitter

(57) Power control circuitry (100) uses two attenuators in the transmit path to achieve wide dynamic range. An intermediate frequency (IF) attenuator (200) is placed before a mixer (212) in the IF section of the transmit path and a radio frequency (RF) attenuator (221) is placed after the mixer (212) in the RF section of the transmit path. Power control circuitry (236) controls setting of the two attenuators in response to a magnitude control signal (102) related to an RF output signal at a desired power level. To conserve battery power of the subscriber unit, only the RF attenuator (221) is adjusted when the desired power level is to be within a given range below the maximum transmission level. For ranges below the given range, the RF attenuator (221) is set for maximum attenuation and the IF attenuator (200) is adjusted.



GB 2 271 231 A

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## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>5</sup> : <b>H04B 1/04</b>	<b>A1</b>	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 92/22143</b> (43) International Publication Date: 10 December 1992 (10.12.92)
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/02774

(22) International Filing Date: 8 April 1992 (08.04.92)

(30) Priority data:  
709,459 3 June 1991 (03.06.91) US

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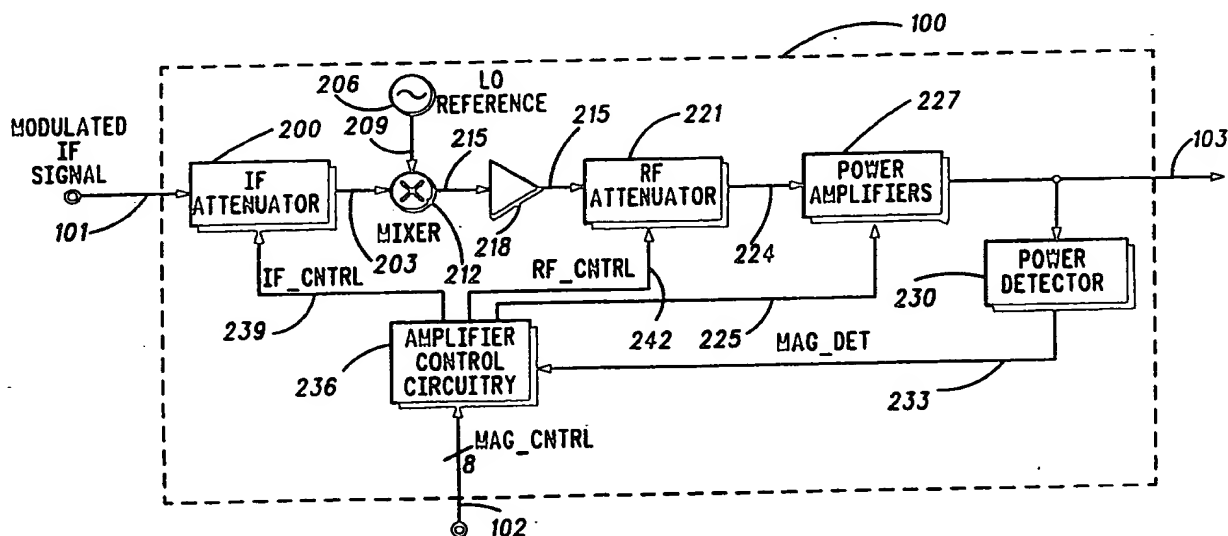
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(81) Designated States: BR, CA, DE, GB, JP.

**Published***With international search report.**Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.*

(54) Title: POWER CONTROL CIRCUITRY FOR ACHIEVING WIDE DYNAMIC RANGE IN A TRANSMITTER



## (57) Abstract

Power control circuitry (100) uses two attenuators in the transmit path to achieve wide dynamic range. An intermediate frequency (IF) attenuator (200) is placed before a mixer (212) in the IF section of the transmit path and a radio frequency (RF) attenuator (221) is placed after the mixer (212) in the RF section of the transmit path. Power control circuitry (236) controls setting of the two attenuators in response to a magnitude control signal (102) related to an RF output signal at a desired power level. To conserve battery power of the subscriber unit, only the RF attenuator (221) is adjusted when the desired power level is to be within a given range below the maximum transmission level. For ranges below the given range, the RF attenuator (221) is set for maximum attenuation and the IF attenuator (200) is adjusted.

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## POWER CONTROL CIRCUITRY FOR ACHIEVING WIDE DYNAMIC RANGE IN A TRANSMITTER

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### Field of the Invention

The present invention is generally related to transmitters in radiotelephones, and more specifically,  
10 related to power control circuitry that may be advantageously used in transmitters for radiotelephones.

### Background of the Invention

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Cellular telephones currently continuously transmit during a telephone call. In a typical scenario, a subscriber unit moves throughout a cell while constantly maintaining communication with a base station located approximately  
20 in the center of the cell. As the subscriber unit moves throughout the cell, the received signal strength indication (RSSI) as seen by the base station, varies significantly. This variance has the potential to overload the receiver in the base station when the subscriber unit is very close to the  
25 base station.

As personal communication networks (PCN) and code division multiple access (CDMA) type cellular systems evolve, the dynamic range requirements on transmitters becomes more stringent. To avoid overloading of the base  
30 station receiver when a subscriber unit is very close to the base station, the subscriber unit must have a typical dynamic range upwards to approximately 80 dB. All current approaches to PA power control, however, are

limited to around 40 dB dynamic range because stray RF coupling limits the amount of attenuation that can be achieved to about that level. Stray radiation also becomes a problem when attenuation levels between 40-80 dB are attempted.

Thus, a need exists for power control circuitry which achieves a wide dynamic range while overcoming the problems of stray RF coupling and stray radiation.

10

### Summary of the Invention

Control circuitry adjusts the level of an output signal. The control circuitry adjusts a priori the level of a signal having a first frequency to produce an adjusted signal having a first frequency, translates the adjusted signal having a first frequency to a translated signal having a second frequency, and adjusts a priori the level of the translated signal having a second frequency to produce the adjusted output signal having a second frequency.

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### Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a block diagram generally illustrating a RF signal power amplifier employing power control circuitry in accordance with the invention.

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FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the power control circuitry in accordance with the invention.

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FIG. 3 is a flow chart for the process used by amplifier control circuitry 236 to set RF attenuator 221 in FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart for the process used by amplifier control circuitry 236 to set IF attenuator 200 in FIG. 2.

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### Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment

FIG. 1 illustrates a RF signal power amplifier which may advantageously employ the present invention. A RF  
10 signal power amplifier is typically part of a radio transmitter, such as that described in Motorola Instruction Manual No. 68P81039E25, entitled, "Advanced Mobile Phone System", and published by Motorola Service Publications, 1301 E. Algonquin Rd., Schaumburg, IL. 1979.  
15 The RF signal power amplifier in FIG. 1 includes power control circuitry 100 which accepts a modulated IF signal 101, upconverts the IF signal 101 to a RF output signal 103 and adjusts the IF signal 101 and the RF output signal 103 proportional to a magnitude control signal, MAG\_CNTRL  
20 102. In the preferred embodiment, MAG\_CNTRL 102 is an 8-bit digital word used to represent the desired RF output signal at a particular power level. In alternate embodiments, the number of bits in the digital word may vary depending on the number of transmission levels the  
25 system requires. Output from the power control circuitry 100 is RF output signal 103 having a desired power level related to the magnitude control signal. The RF output signal is coupled via a filter 109 to an antenna 112. The output power level developed by the power control  
30 circuitry 100 typically amplifies the input signal 101 from approximately one milliwatt to 5 or more watts.

FIG. 2 depicts further detail of the power control circuitry 100 in accordance with the invention. FIG. 2

consists of an IF attenuator 200, a mixer 212, a filter and buffer amplifier 218, a RF attenuator 221, power amplifiers (PA's) 227, a power detector 230 and amplifier control circuitry 236. A modulated IF signal 101 enters IF

5 attenuator 200 and is attenuated by an amount dependent on the value of a first adjustment control signal, IF\_CNTRL 239. In the preferred embodiment, IF attenuator 200 is a balanced mixer type attenuator PAS-3 manufactured by Mini-Circuits and is used to adjust the level of the IF signal

10 101. In alternate embodiments, IF attenuator may be realized by employing PIN diode attenuators or gain controllable amplifiers, such as a Hewlett-Packard HPVA-0180 gain controllable amplifier. Output from IF attenuator 200 is an adjusted IF signal 203 which then

15 enters a mixer 212. The mixer 212 can be any conventional mixer circuit, such as a double balanced, diode type mixer or balanced Gilbert Cell type active mixer to minimize local oscillator (LO) feedthrough and is used to translate the adjusted IF signal 203 to a RF signal 215. The

20 mixer 212 also has as an input a reference signal 209 which is generated by the LO reference 206. Output from the mixer 212 is a RF signal 215 which is then filtered and buffered by filter and buffer amplifier 218. The filter and buffer amplifier 218 are required to remove spurious

25 components from the mixer output and build up the signal to the levels needed to drive subsequent stages. Continuing, the RF signal 215 enters a second attenuator, RF attenuator 221. In the preferred embodiment, RF

30 attenuator 221 is a balanced mixer type attenuator PAS-2 manufactured by Mini-Circuits and is used to adjust the level of the RF signal 215. The RF signal 215 is attenuated by an amount depending on the value of a second attenuation control signal, RF\_CNTRL 242. Output from the



RF attenuators 221 is an adjusted RF signal 224 which is amplified by power amplifiers 227 to produce the desired RF output signal. The power amplifiers 227 may be any conventional class A, AB, or B power amplifiers which may be driven into saturation for higher efficiency when constant envelope modulation schemes (such as FM) are employed. A power detector 230 detects the magnitude of the desired RF output signal and produces a magnitude detection signal, MAG\_DET 233. The power detector may be any conventional power detector such as diode type detectors or logarithmic amplifier/detector circuitry. Amplifier control circuitry 236 accepts MAG\_DET 233, and also MAG\_CNTRL 102. Amplifier control circuitry 236 determines IF\_CNTRL 239 and RF\_CNTRL 242 relative to the difference between MAG\_DET 233 and MAG\_CNTRL 102.

Amplifier control circuitry 236 is at the heart of the power control circuitry 100 and is unique in that it must control two outputs instead of just one. In the preferred embodiment, a microprocessor, such as a Motorola 68HC11, could be used to digitally control IF attenuator 200 and RF attenuator 221. Digital-to-analog (D/A) converters can be used on each output as required to provide IF\_CNTRL 239 and RF\_CNTRL 242 in analog form. As digitally controlled attenuators become more commonplace, the D/A converters will not be required. Likewise, in an alternate embodiment, an A/D converter can be used to digitize the output of the power detector 230. In this embodiment MAG\_DET 233 would be a digital representation of the desired RF output signal.

Control of IF attenuator 200 and RF attenuator 221 is accomplished as follows. Amplifier control circuitry 236 would allow the desired RF output signal 103 to be within a

predetermined power level range or dynamic range, which for purposes of example, might be 80 dB. An adjustment power level range, which is less than the 80 dB dynamic range, is programmed into the microprocessor of amplifier control circuitry 236. This range, again for example purposes, may be anywhere between 0 and 40 dB below the maximum available power level. If the desired RF output signal is to be within this smaller range, only RF attenuator 221 is adjusted. If MAG\_CNTRL 102 entering amplifier control circuitry 236 indicates that the subscriber unit must transmit within this 0 to 40 dB range below the maximum, IF attenuator 200 is set for maximum output and a control loop is invoked. FIG. 3 depicts the steps amplifier control circuitry 236 undergoes to set RF attenuator 221 during this process. The process starts at 300 when amplifier control circuitry 236 reads at 303 MAG\_DET 233. A test is then performed to determine if MAG\_DET 233 is equivalent to MAG\_CNTRL 102. If it is, amplifier control circuitry 236 will again read at 303 MAG\_DET 233. If MAG\_DET 233 is not equivalent to MAG\_CNTRL 102, another test is performed at 309 to determine if MAG\_DET 233 is greater than MAG\_CNTRL 102. If it is, the desired RF output signal 103 is too high and must be attenuated. This is accomplished by amplifier control circuitry 236 by increasing at 312 the amount of attenuation of RF attenuator 221. After the attenuation is increased, amplifier control circuitry 236 will again read at 303 MAG\_DET 233. If MAG\_DET 233 is not greater than MAG\_CNTRL 102, the desired RF output signal 103 is below the level required by MAG\_CNTRL 102, and consequently amplifier control circuitry 236 decreases at 315 the attenuation of RF attenuator 221. Again, after the attenuation has been decreased, amplifier control circuitry

236 reads at 303 MAG\_DET 233 to determine if the level is as desired.

As long as MAG\_CNTRL 102 requests the subscriber to transmit within 40 dB of the maximum (the adjustment power level range), RF attenuator 221 is the only attenuator which is adjusted. This is important for subscriber units which run off of battery power, since less current is used in switching only one of the two available attenuators. Another important reason for controlling RF attenuator 221 at the higher power levels is to minimize power consumed by the PA's 227, which is often directly proportional to PA input/output power. In addition, the current supplied to PA's 227 when higher power levels are required is varied as a function of the required output level. To optimize PA efficiency throughout the adjustment power level range, bias control signal 225 from amplifier control circuitry 236 to the PA's 227 is varied to control PA idle current for Class A and AB PA's. Amplifier control circuitry 236 monitors MAG\_CNTRL 102, and when MAG\_CNTRL 102 is within the aforementioned adjustment power level range, amplifier control circuitry 236 will set the bias control signal 225 to a predetermined level so as to limit PA current to the minimum level needed to produce the required output power.

When the transmission level is required to be the below the adjustment power level range, amplifier control circuitry 236 will reduce the current supplied to the PA's 227 to a minimum current required to maintain transmission at the required output power level. This output power level, and its corresponding minimum current level, occurs at the bottom of the adjustment power level range. Also at this time, RF attenuator 221 is set to maximum attenuation and IF attenuator 200 is then

adjusted to provide for further reductions in RF output power. Use of two attenuators in the transmit path, where the signals attenuated are at different frequencies, allows for the wide dynamic range of the transmitter. The major  
5 drawback of single attenuator transmitter paths is that the attenuation is limited to around 40 dB of control range due to stray coupling around the attenuator itself. That is, even though the path through the attenuator can be cutoff completely, some amount of signal always leaks around the  
10 attenuator and into succeeding amplifier stages. Two attenuators in the transmit path, where the signals are at different frequencies, avoid the stray coupling problem since the IF signal will not propagate through the RF circuitry, even if there is some IF signal leakage.  
15 Attenuating at both IF and RF also minimizes stray radiation, since the level of transmit frequency signal present inside the subscriber unit is greatly reduced.

If the power detector 230 has approximately 80 dB of dynamic range, then a similar feedback loop as that  
20 described in FIG. 3 for adjusting IF attenuator 200 through IF\_CNTRL 239, could be used for ranges between 40 to 80 dB below the maximum power level. In the preferred embodiment, since detector range is usually limited to below 80 dB, an incremental control scheme using a linear  
25 IF attenuator 200 may be incorporated. In the linear IF attenuator 200, the attenuation is "calibrated" so that a given step in IF\_CNTRL 239 say 1 V, produces a constant change in power, like 10 dB.

FIG. 4 depicts the steps amplifier control circuitry  
30 236 would undergo to perform the incremental control scheme. The process starts at 400 when amplifier control circuitry 236 reads at 403 MAG\_CNTRL 102. A test is then performed at 406 to determine if the newly read

MAG\_CNTRL 102 is equal to the last magnitude control signal. If it is, IF attenuator 200 does not need to be adjusted and amplifier control circuitry 236 will read at 403 the next MAG\_CNTRL 102. If, however, the newly  
5 read MAG\_CNTRL 102 is not equal to the last MAG\_CNTRL 102, amplifier control circuitry 236 will determine at 409 the difference between the new and the old MAG\_CNTRL's. Amplifier control circuitry 236 then determines at 412 the appropriate IF\_CNTRL 239 to be applied to IF attenuator  
10 200. IF attenuator 200 then has its attenuation incremented/decremented at 415 as required. After the attenuation has been incremented/decremented, a new MAG\_CNTRL 102 is read at 403 by amplifier control circuitry 236 and the process is repeated.

15 Thus, needs have been substantially met for power control circuitry which provides wide dynamic range for use in radiotelephone systems where overloading of a base-station receiver must be avoided. The use of an attenuator in the IF branch and an attenuator in the RF  
20 branch reduces the affects of stray coupling around the attenuators to effectively increase the dynamic range of the transmitter. This two stage control scheme also provides for improved efficiency by enabling the PA's 227 current to be cut back as the RF output power level is  
25 reduced.

What I claim is:

## Claims

- 5 1. Control circuitry for adjusting the level of an output signal comprising:

first means for adjusting a priori the level of a signal having a first frequency to produce an adjusted signal  
10 having a first frequency;

means, coupled to said first means for adjusting, for translating said adjusted signal having a first frequency to a translated signal having a second frequency; and  
15 second means, coupled to said means for translating, for adjusting a priori the level of said translated signal having a second frequency to produce the adjusted output signal having a second frequency.

- 20 2. The control circuitry of claim 1 wherein said first means for adjusting further comprises one of either attenuating the level of said signal having a first frequency or variably amplifying the level of said signal having a first frequency.

- 25 3. The control circuitry of claim 1 wherein said second means for adjusting further comprises one of either attenuating the level of said translated signal having a second frequency or variably amplifying the level of said  
30 translated signal having a second frequency.

4. Power control circuitry for adjusting the power level of a radio frequency (RF) output signal, the power control circuitry having as input an intermediate frequency (IF) signal from a signal source, the power control circuitry  
5 comprising:

first means for adjusting a priori the power level of the IF signal to produce an adjusted IF signal;

means, coupled to said first means for adjusting, for  
10 translating said adjusted IF signal to the RF output signal;  
and

second means, coupled to said means for translating, for adjusting a priori the power level of said RF output signal to produce an adjusted RF output signal.

15

5. The power control circuitry of claim 4 wherein said means for translating further comprises:

20 means for generating a reference signal; and  
means for mixing said adjusted IF signal with said generated reference signal to produce said RF output signal.

6. Power control circuitry for adjusting the power level of a radio frequency (RF) output signal over a predetermined power level range in a transmitter, the power control circuitry having as input an intermediate  
5 frequency (IF) signal from a signal source, the power control circuitry having the capability to adjust the RF output signal to a desired level and provide at least one adjustment control signal related to the RF output signal at a desired power level, the power control circuitry  
10 comprising:

means for providing an adjustment power level range less than or equal to the predetermined power level range;

means for generating a reference signal;

15 first means, responsive to a first adjustment control signal, for adjusting the IF signal when the desired power level of the RF output signal is not within said adjustment power level range;

20 means, coupled to said first means for adjusting, for mixing said generated reference signal with said adjusted IF signal to produce the RF output signal; and

25 second means, responsive to a second adjustment control signal, for adjusting said RF output signal when said desired power level of said RF output signal is within said adjustment power level range to produce the RF output signal at the desired power level.



7. The power control circuitry of claim 6 wherein said first means for adjusting further comprises one of either attenuating the power level of said IF signal when the desired power level of the RF output signal is not within said adjustment power level range or variably amplifying the power level of said IF signal when the desired power level of the RF output signal is not within said adjustment power level range.
- 10 8. The power control circuitry of claim 6 wherein said second means for adjusting further comprises one of either attenuating the power level of said RF output signal when said desired power level of said RF output signal is within said adjustment power level range or attenuating said RF
- 15 signal by the maximum attenuation when said desired power level of said RF output signal is not within said adjustment power level range.

9. A method of adjusting the level of an output signal comprising the steps of:

5 adjusting a priori the level of a signal having a first frequency to produce an adjusted signal having a first frequency;

translating said adjusted signal having a first frequency to a translated signal having a second frequency; and

10 adjusting a priori the level of said translated signal having a second frequency to produce the adjusted output signal having a second frequency.

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10. A method of adjusting the power level of a radio frequency (RF) output signal, the method comprising the steps of:

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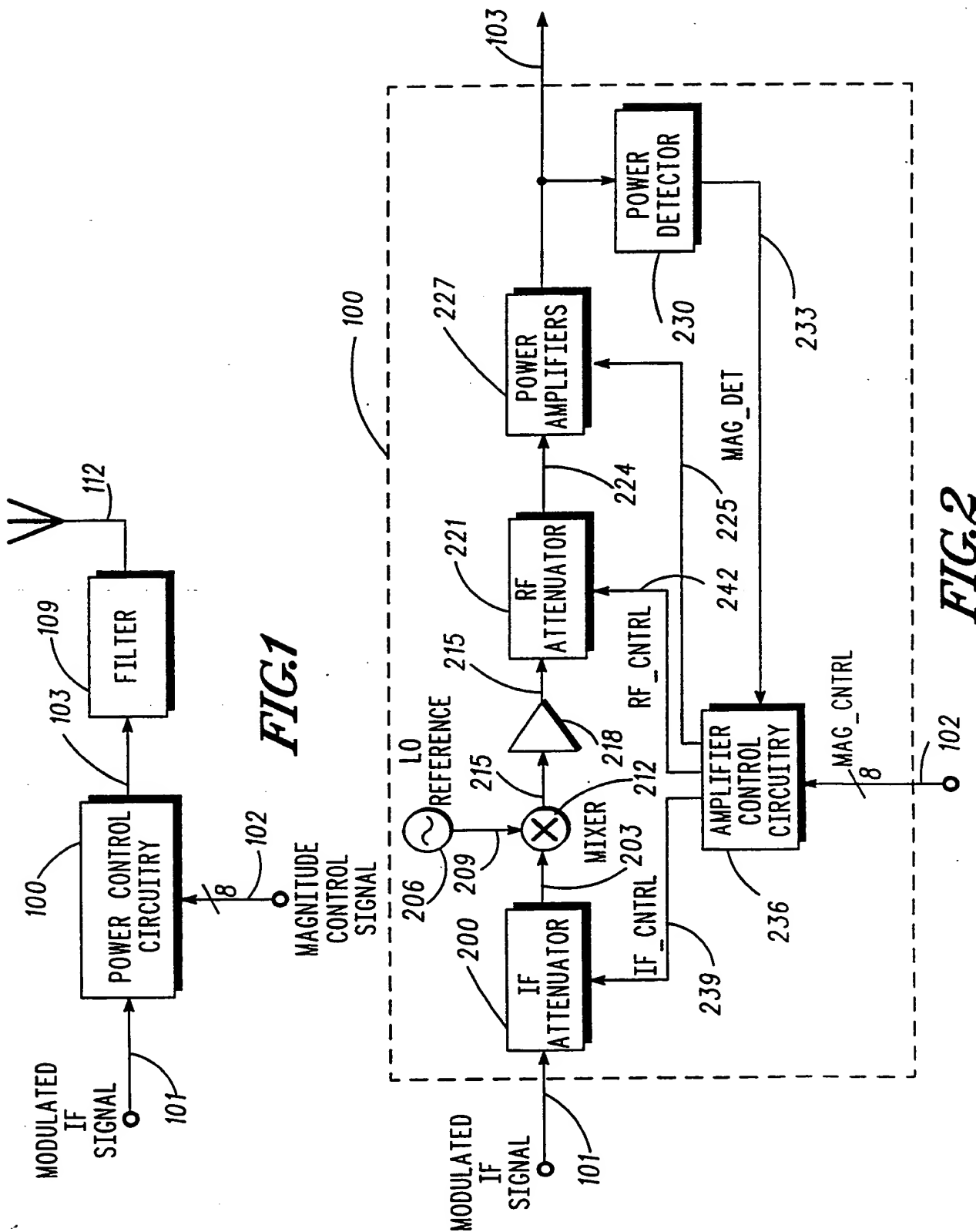
adjusting a priori the power level of an IF signal to produce an adjusted IF signal;

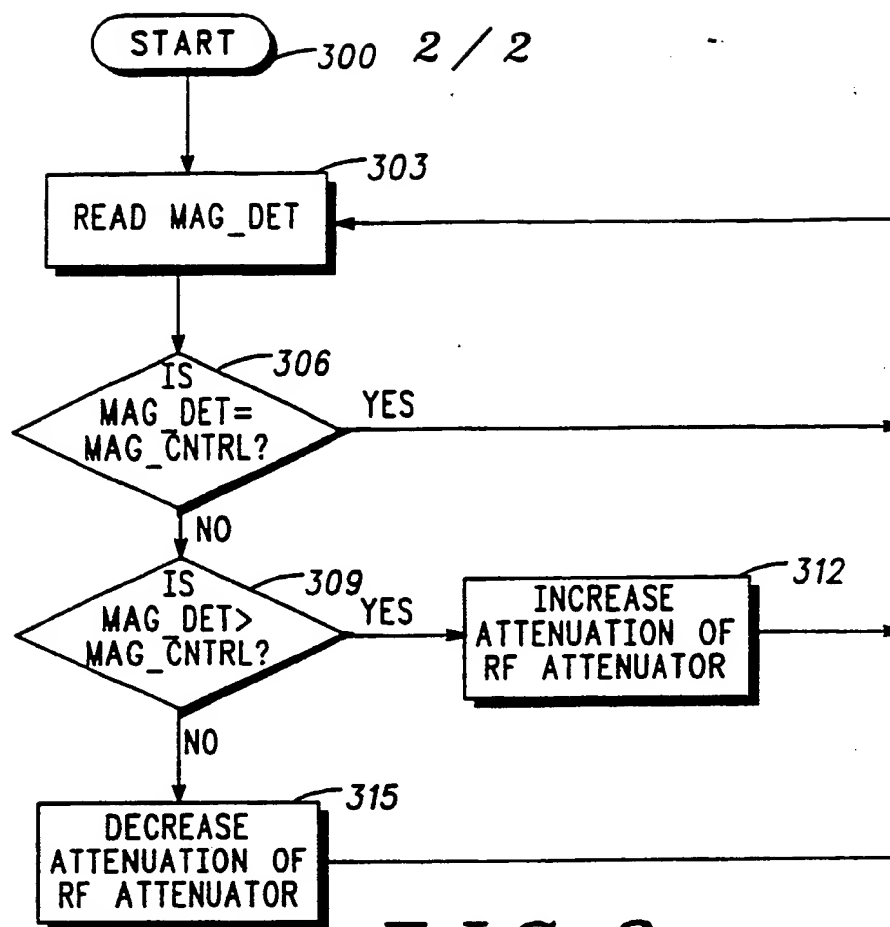
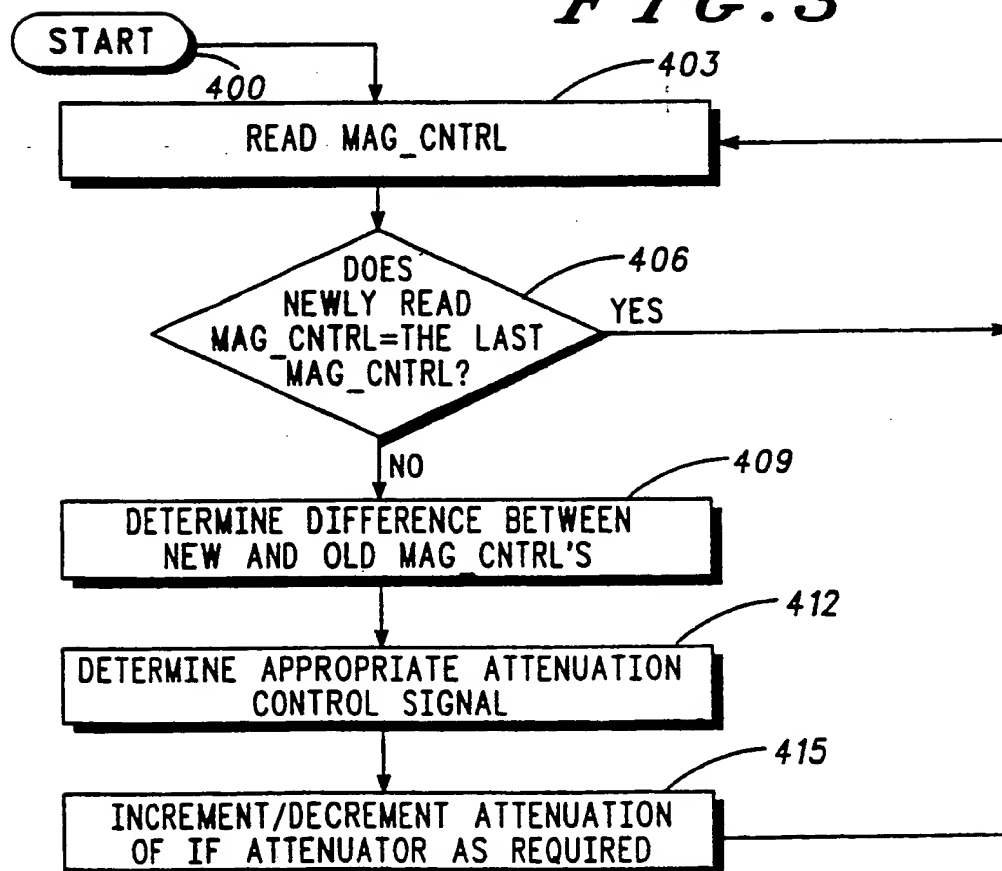
translating said adjusted IF signal to a RF output signal; and

25

adjusting a priori the power level of said RF output signal to produce an adjusted RF output signal.

1 / 2



*FIG. 3**FIG. 4*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US92/02774

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) :H04B 1/04

US CL :455/127

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 455/127, 102, 115, 118, 67.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y,P	JP, A, 3,280,727 (MIYAJIMA) 11 DECEMBER 1991. See Abstract.	1-10
X Y	EP, A, 388,894 (MAKAMURA) 26 SEPTEMBER 1990. See Abstract.	1-5 and 9 6-8
X Y	US, A, 4,630,117 (PARKER) 16 DECEMBER 1986. See Abstract. Figure.	1-3 and 9 4-8 and 10
A	US, A, 4,317,083 (BOYD) 23 FEBRUARY 1982. See Abstract.	1-10



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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